

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to the margins of all of the sheets and changes to line weights in order to comply with the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review. In addition, Figure 11A was amended to correct an incorrect reference number. The reference number now accurately corresponds to the description in the specification. Thus, included in the appendix are 7 sheets – 6 replacement sheets and one annotated sheet reflecting the change to Figure 11A. These 6 replacement sheets replace the original 6 sheets of drawings.

Attachments: 6 Replacement Drawing Sheets
One Annotated drawing showing changes to Figure 11A

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the office action dated June 6, 2004. Pending claims 39-89 were rejected based on the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 39-71 and 76-89 have been cancelled, claims 72 and 73 have been amended and claim 90 has been added. The specification has also been amended and new, corrected drawings are also included.

Correction of Priority Claim and Amendment to the Specification

This application was originally filed on February 14, 2002 as a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/420,716, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/023,806, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,022,369 on February 8, 2000. However, Application No. 09/420,716 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,346,091 on February 12, 2002 – two days prior to the filing date of the current application. Because of the lack of co-pendency of the current application with either of these two prior applications, the current application cannot properly claim priority to either of them. As such, Applicants expressly disclaim any priority to both U.S. Patent No. 6,022,369 and U.S. Patent No. 6,346,091.

The specification of the current application has been amended to remove the priority claim.

Applicants note that the filing receipt issued in this case also includes the erroneous priority claim as discussed above. Therefore, Applicants request a corrected filing receipt to indicate that no domestic priority is being claimed in this case.

Obviousness Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 39-89 were rejected based on the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-49 of U.S. Patent No. 6,022,369 (hereinafter '369 patent). Claims 39-71 and 76-89 have been cancelled, and as such only 72-75 and 90 remain pending. In response to the double patenting rejection, Applicants submit the attached terminal disclaimer with respect to this patent. Applicants assert that this terminal disclaimer is being submitted only for the purpose of facilitating prosecution. In

submitting this terminal disclaimer Applicants are not making any statement as to the patentability of any of the claims of the current application.

Claims 39-41, 62, 64, 65, 67, 72, 74, 76-81 were also rejected based on the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,346,091 (hereinafter the '091 patent). Claims 39-71 and 76-89 have been cancelled, and as such only 72-75, and 90 remain pending. In response to the double patenting rejection, Applicants submit the attached terminal disclaimer with respect to this patent. Applicants assert that this terminal disclaimer is being submitted only for the purpose of facilitating prosecution. In submitting this terminal disclaimer Applicants are not making any statement as to the patentability of any of the claims of the current application.

Drawings

Finally, the Examiner included an attachment to the Office Action of a Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review. Several issues were objected to, including the thickness of certain lines and/or letters and non-compliant margins. Applicants believe that these issues have been addressed in the attached replacement drawings. As a note, a correction was also made on Figure 11A of the drawings. Element 204 was changed to element 203, and the figure now corresponds to the description of the figure in the specification.

Application No. 10/073,996
Amendment dated December 2, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action dated June 2, 2004


Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their attorney,

Date: December 2, 2004


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Attachments: 6 Replacement Drawing Sheets
One Annotated drawing showing changes to Figure 11A

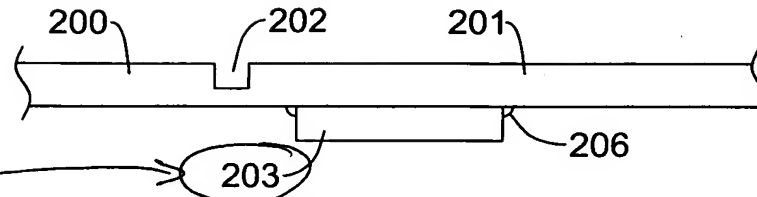


Figure 11A

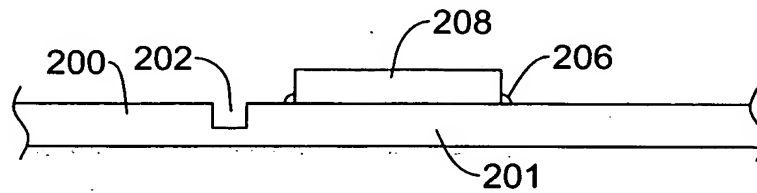


Figure 11B

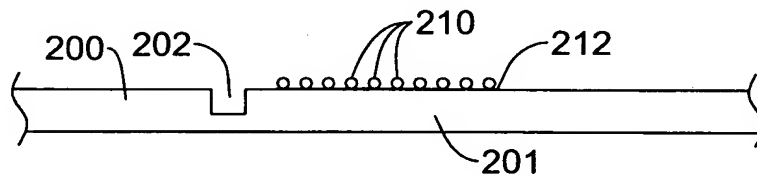


Figure 11C

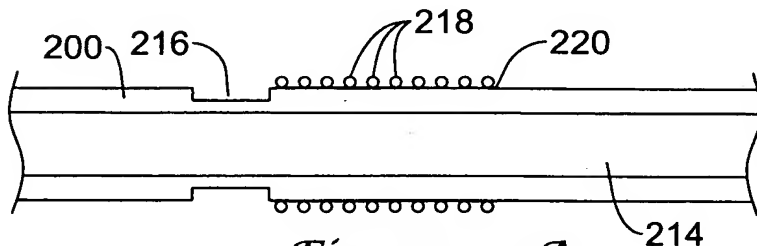


Figure 12A

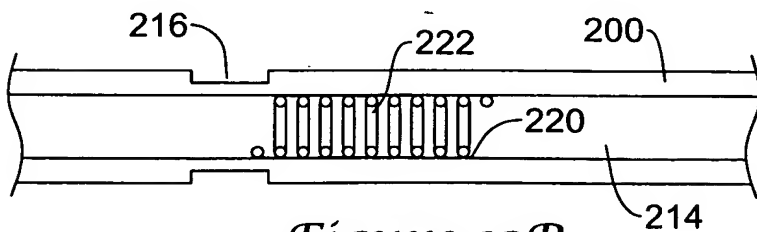


Figure 12B

changed
from
"204" to
"203"